



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office
ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND COMMISSIONER
OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

NOV 19 1998

#9

ARTHUR R. CRAWFORD
NIXON & VANDERHYE
1100 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 8TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714

In re Application of :
Michel Schneider et al :
Serial No.: 09/002,710 : PETITION DECISION
Filed: January 5, 1998 :
Attorney Docket No.: 1201-59 :

This letter is in response to the petition under 37 CFR 1.103(a) received September 30, 1998, seeking suspension of action in this application for a period of six months

A review of the file history shows that this application has not been taken up for action by the examiner.

Applicants seek suspension of action due to unusual circumstances in that applicants' Swiss attorney primarily responsible for prosecution of this application was returning to Switzerland on September 2, 1998, and was involved with an air disaster in which the attorney was killed. Applicants seek time to reorganize existing files and, where necessary, reconstruct missing file parts and reassign prosecution to a new attorney.

Applicants' petition is **GRANTED**. Action on this application is suspended for six months from the mailing date of this letter. At the end of six months, or earlier if desired, applicants are requested to contact the examiner in writing or by facsimile transmission requesting resumption of prosecution in this application.

Should there be any questions with respect to this decision, please contact William R. Dixon, Jr., by mail addressed to: Director, Technology Center 1600/2900, Washington, D.C. 20231, or by telephone at (703)308-3824 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 305-5408.



John Kittle
Director, Technology Center 1600/2900